



News

From the Office of Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

City of Indianapolis

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Sustaining Indy



On Friday April 17, Mayor Ballard unveiled the city's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative, which provides a framework for encouraging green infrastructure in Indianapolis. In addition, the Mayor highlighted Christian Park's first ever rain garden, a beautification spot designed through a partnership with IPS to hold and infiltrate stormwater runoff.

From April 13-17, the City held its second "Green Week" designed to showcase efforts being made to aggressively move Indianapolis toward becoming one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

Mayor Ballard, the Office of Sustainability and community partners participated in six events during "Green Week" including:

- An announcement of the city's intent to 'green' the City-County Building,

making it a more sustainable structure;

- A groundbreaking for the second phase of the Cultural Trail;
- A tree maintenance blitz at Brookside Park on the city's east side, where 25 volunteer arborists trimmed and pruned historic trees and removed invasive species;
- A groundbreaking for The Nature Conservancy's new headquarters, which is designed to become the first platinum-level LEED-

certified office building in Indiana;

- An announcement that 25 IPS schools will seek LEED certification for their buildings;
- And the unveiling of the city's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Office of Sustainability, the Department of Public Works and the Office of Code Enforcement, which provides a framework for encouraging green infrastructure in Indianapolis.

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health.

"The energy and vision of our SustainIndy program and the Office of Sustainability allow us as a community to continue to explore what steps we need to take now to make sure Indianapolis continues to be a thriving community for many generations of Indianapolis residents," said Mayor Ballard.

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On April 14, Mayor Ballard and Kären Haley (pictured at right), Director of the Office of Sustainability, announced the city's plan to 'green' the City-County Building, making it a more sustainable structure.

The greening process will involve direction from the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) – a leader in sustainable design and energy retrofits that also led an initiative to green the White House. Both the city and RMI recognize that public participation is a critical element of this process.

Through energy audits and other analysis of the City County Building, long-term savings are expected as a result of a reduction in the amount of energy and water used in the building and an increase in the amount of material recycled in the building.



On April 16, Mayor Ballard joined leaders of the Indiana Nature Conservancy (pictured at left) to help break ground at the site of their new headquarters. The building, located in the Cole Noble neighborhood, is designed to become the first platinum-level LEED-certified office building in Indiana.

"LEED" means Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a Green Building Rating System™ developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

On April 14, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick hosted a construction kick-off event to celebrate the Northeast Corridor, which travels through the Mass Ave. Cultural District.

"The Cultural Trail is a terrific example of how public-private partnerships can transform the landscape of the city and help make Indianapolis a more connected, sustainable community," said Mayor Ballard.

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is a world-class urban bike and pedestrian path that connects neighborhoods, Cultural Districts and entertainment amenities, and serves as the downtown hub for the entire Central Indiana Greenway System. ●



Tree Companies Partner with Indy Parks to Sustain Brookside Park

Arborists donate in-kind services for tree care during Green Week



As part of the city's Green Week April 13-17, Mayor Greg Ballard discussed the importance of strong community partnerships during a tree maintenance blitz at Brookside Park. Indy Parks seeks partnerships with private industry to help sustain the city's infrastructure, urban tree canopy and programming needs.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard highlighted the importance of strong community partnerships during a tree maintenance blitz at Brookside Park during Green Week involving about 25 arborists from six professional tree companies.

The arborists trimmed and pruned historic trees and removed invasive species at the Eastside park, a sprawling 108 acres of rolling wooded green space. The total value of tree work including labor and equipment totals more than \$15,750.

"These companies demonstrated their commitment to the upkeep of our community assets by assisting the City of Indianapolis in performing needed tree work that has immediate

cost-savings and public safety benefits," said Mayor Ballard. "Preserving our urban tree canopy in one of our oldest parks is a sustainability measure that improves the life span and health of these trees. In-kind investments by partners such as our local arborists allow us to accomplish essential tasks on a broader scale with long-term results."

The improvements by Duke Energy, Bartlett Tree Experts, Wright Tree Service, Davey Tree Service, Angel Oak Tree Service and Nelson Tree Service help the longevity of the trees and enhance their many benefits.

The companies donated the use of nine bucket trucks with chippers for their unique partner-

ship with Indy Parks Forestry division, which is responsible for maintaining more than 250,000 street trees and a large inventory of park trees in Indianapolis.

"Proper maintenance of trees is critical to the health of Indianapolis' urban forest, which provides many important benefits for Indianapolis including cleaner air and water and improved quality of life," said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. "We are very appreciative for the generous donation of time by these companies to improve tree health and safety in Brookside Park."

Indy Parks seeks partnerships with private industry to help sustain the city's infrastructure, urban tree canopy, and programming needs and welcomes conversation with companies interested in assisting Indy Parks reach its goals.

Rick Carter, local manager for Bartlett Tree Experts, is in talks with Indy Parks to provide in-kind regular maintenance for additional forestry needs. ●



About 25 arborists from six professional tree companies participated in the maintenance blitz. They trimmed and pruned historic trees and removed invasive species throughout the park.

Indy Announces Plans for Summer Employment and Education Program



On April 27, Mayor Ballard announced a summer jobs and educational program for Marion County residents ages 16 to 24. **Youth Works Indy** will provide paid positions, education and job skills training to 575 young adults from June 8 - July 31.

On April 27, Mayor Greg Ballard announced a summer jobs and educational program for Marion County residents ages 16 to 24.

YouthWorks Indy will provide paid positions, education, and job skills training to 575 young adults from June 8th through July 31st. The Indianapolis Private Industry Council will manage the program using federal stimulus funds designated for employment and training.

"We are using stimulus funds not only to create immediate summer employment opportunities, but, more importantly, we want to close education gaps and provide participants with the opportunity to develop basic job-getting skills that will benefit them in the future," said Mayor Ballard.

The program focuses on three areas: education, employment and work readiness. It is open to 350 in-school youth currently enrolled in high school; 175 youth who are out of school, but seeking a GED or credentials; and 50 high school students who are interested in pursuing health care careers.

Participants will spend part of their time in the classroom and part of their time gaining work experience at local companies and organizations.

The program will provide an hourly wage for work of \$8.50 (up to \$170/week) and a stipend of \$50 per educational session (up to \$250 per week) to cover transportation and meals.

On-line applications are available at www.ipic.org and will be accepted between April 27th and May 13th.

YouthWorks Indy participants will be chosen by May 15th with priority of selection given to Veterans (past or present), Fall 2009 enrolling Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) participants, Youth Employment Services (YES) participants and current WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker or Youth participants.

While *YouthWorks* will offer intensive programming and a paycheck to 575 youth, a need still exists.

In response, Mayor Ballard also made larger call to action for employers to hire young adults for work this summer.

"In tough economic times such as these, our youth have a particularly difficult time finding employment," said Mayor Ballard.

"But according to a study by the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, hiring a young person is a cost-effective way for businesses to increase production, promote diversity, and bring technological savvy to the workplace."

Providing jobs for young people provides them with an opportunity to develop confidence, contribute to the local economy, and learn about things like resumé and interview preparation, work ethic, responsibility, and leadership skills.

YouthWorks Indy and the Call to Action program also seek to create a positive mentoring experience for its participants by creating a lasting and beneficial relationship between youths and adults.

Furthermore, summer employment serves as part of the city's summer crime prevention program. Research indicates that organized employment and educational activities can prevent crime among young people.

"I am asking all businesses in Marion County to consider hiring a young person this summer," said Ballard. "My office has also prepared a [survey](#) that will be distributed to companies to provide feedback on the number of youth they've hired, so we can track our success." ●

For more information on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how monies are being spent by the city of Indianapolis, please visit www.indygov.org/mayor.

What is CERT?



Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will likely be unable to meet the demand for their services. People will have to rely on each other for help. CERT helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities.

When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not likely be able to meet the demand for their services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on

each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present people the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second,

give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

I want to help. What do I need to do?

- Attend the CERT training course to become a Team Member. You will learn how to prepare yourself, your family and your community for a disaster.
- Become familiar with tools to help you organize after a disaster and how to conduct triage and provide basic first aid.
- Learn to assess damage after the disaster, extinguish a small fire, conduct searches and rescue victims safely, and complete a small-scale disaster simulation.

I want to find out more!

For more information about CERT Training, call 317.327.750, or email dfletcher@indygov.org. •





Saturday, May 16, 2009
1-3 p.m.

Onsite FREE registration beginning at NOON

Veterans Memorial Plaza, on Michigan St.
 just north of the Indiana War Memorial



Bike Helmets are Required! For more information and pre-registration, visit: <http://www.healthbydesignonline.org>

BikeWays Safety Information: <http://www.sustainindy.org/bikeways-safety.cfm>

Look What's Happening at Garfield Park!

Garden Work Days

Come get your hands dirty in the Children's Garden at Garfield Park. Garden Work Days will be held from 9-10:30AM on the second Saturday of each month (May 9th). This is a great way to get volunteer hours, or just spend some time outdoors helping the park. Volunteers must be 16 or older.

Guided Conservatory Tours

Want to know a little more about the plants and history of the Conservatory? Join the Garfield Park Master Gardeners for a free guided

tour. Tours will begin at 2:30PM on the second and fourth Saturday of each month (May 9th and 23rd). Tours are free with \$1 paid admission.

Master Gardener Plant Sale and Family Planting Day

This is not just a plant sale! In addition to vegetable, annual and perennial plants for sale, the Garfield Park Master Gardeners will also be on hand to give advice and answer all of your gardening questions. The sale is on Saturday, May 30 from 9AM-12PM and is open to the public. After visit-

ing the sale, stop by the Garfield Park Children's Garden and help plant annuals and get the garden ready for the summer. This event will be open from 10AM-1PM on Saturday, May 30.

Coming this Summer!

Plant your own garden, learn about growing food, and explore the garden for critters! Junior Master Gardeners will return this summer to the Children's Garden at Garfield Park! This program will be held on Wednesdays, June 10-August 5. Ages 6-8 will meet from 10AM-12PM, and ages 9-12 will meet from 2-

4PM. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration begins May 8th and spots are limited. Call 327-7580 to register. ●

Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden is located on the near southeast side of Indianapolis at 2505 Conservatory Drive on the 2400 block of South Shelby Street. The Conservatory is open daily from 10AM-5PM and the Sunken Garden is open from 10AM-10PM daily. Daily admission to the Conservatory is \$1 per person over 3 years-old. For information these or other Conservatory events, call (317) 327-7580 or visit www.indyparks.org.

Experience the rich cultural heritage of Asia at Garfield Park



On May 9, Indy Parks and the Asian American Alliance Inc. will host the Second Annual Asian Festival, which is held in conjunction with Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month.

Celebrate the cultural heritage of Asia right here at home in Indianapolis during the second annual Asian Festival in Garfield Park in May.

Mayor Greg Ballard will visit the festival at 2 p.m. on Saturday May 9. "The Asian Festival showcases the diverse arts and cultures Indy Parks' staff champion at our Garfield Park Arts Center and incorporate into programming in our parks and family centers," said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. "Art is something we promote every day through our arts center. We hope to sustain partnerships with organizations like Asian American Alliance and look forward to celebrating the rich diversity of our communities with more programs like the Asian Festival."

Festival highlights include:

- Cultural entertainment throughout the day at the Asian-Inspired Garfield Park Pagoda
 - Fashion show featuring costumes from represented Asian countries
 - Art exhibit at the Garfield Arts Center now through May 29, featuring fine artwork, cultural regalia from Asian artists and artwork from Asian children in Central Indiana
 - Free health screenings including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, body mass index and dental hygiene education
 - Food available for purchase from local Asian restaurants
 - Asian merchandise vendors
- "Asian American Alliance, in partnership with Indy Parks, is proud to present this festival, which highlights the rich cultural heritage of Asia that can be found in Central Indiana that making it a more vibrant, interesting place to live," said AAAI President Vince Wong. "The lush backdrop of Garfield Park is a great venue to display the wonderful cuisine, costume, arts, music, dance, and crafts of Asia. Instead of flying 18 hours to travel to Asia, this family-friendly event allows Central Indiana residents to experience a bit of Asia in their backyard."

The Asian Festival is held in May in conjunction with Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month. During the festival, AAAI will award scholarships to IPS students and Asian American leadership students.

AAAI is a local, nonprofit organization with a mission to

inspire Asian Americans to lead and serve. The Asian Festival is a collaborative effort between AAAI, Indy Parks, the Garfield Arts Center and its Advisory Council and is sponsored by National City Bank, PNC, and Western Union. •



Garfield Park Arts Center Manager Tom Weidenbach hangs artwork for display during the Asian Festival presented by the Asian American Alliance Inc. and Indy Parks and Recreation.

More than 20,000 people of Asian descent call Indianapolis home, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

To honor this rich tapestry that contributes to the great diversity of the City of Indianapolis, the Asian American Alliance Inc. (AAAI) and Indy Parks & Recreation are proud to present:

The 2nd Annual Asian Festival
Saturday, May 9, 2009
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Garfield Park Arts Center
2432 Conservatory Drive
Admission is free

Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program Offers On-Line Registration for Service Providers

Registration aimed to improve coordination of service delivery

Each year, more than 5,000 ex-offenders are released from prison and return home to Marion County. A significant number eventually end up back in the correctional system. To break this cycle and help ex-offenders transition into positive roles in our community, the City of Indianapolis continues to partner with local businesses to connect pre-qualified ex-offenders with employers and job opportunities.

Through the efforts of Mayor

Greg Ballard, the intent of the Ex-Offender Re-Entry initiative is to coordinate delivery of services to previously incarcerated individuals returning to Marion County.

In order to complete this task, we ask that service providers go to Mayor Ballard's [website](#) and register with us.

Through this registration process we can refer others to you and include you in our reports on service delivery to Marion County.

In addition, if you have suggestions that can enhance our efforts or you would like to invite Khadijah Muhammad, Director, Offender Re-entry to visit your agency or speak at a gathering, please utilize this process as well.

Businesses: there is also a link on Mayor Ballard's [website](#) for you to register if you have employment opportunities and would like to explore hiring pre-qualified ex-offenders. ●

Re-Entry Resource Fair

May 12—13, 2009

8 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Indiana State Fairgrounds

For priority consideration, please register by May 5

Businesses and Service providers are invited to participate in the 2009 Mayor's Re-Entry Resource Fair where you will have an opportunity to talk with ex-offenders about services or employment opportunities your organization has to offer.

[Click Here](#) to register and for more information.

Indianapolis International Sustainable Education Program

Mayor Ballard's Office of International & Cultural Affairs (ICA) is developing a program to increase the international community's participation in sustainable living practices.

The program is called the Indianapolis International Sustainable Education Program (IISEP) and is being developed in partnership with IUPUI's School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA).

Sustainable outreach programs are important because improving environmental health quality benefits all of Indianapolis' residents.

The IISEP will help to keep the international community aware of the city's sustainability efforts by focusing on: energy emissions, solid waste and

recycling, water and land, quality of life, green building and development, which will translate into long term cost savings for the taxpayer.

Traditionally, getting the international community to participate in sustainable projects and initiatives has been a challenge for governments, not-for-profit organizations and businesses.

This is primarily due to cultural outreach barriers. In order to overcome these cultural barriers, ICA will tailor its sustainability outreach efforts in ways that are relevant to the international community's social and cultural needs.

Over the coming months, ICA will meet with the city's international and cultural or-

ganizations to determine the best practices for reaching out to such a varied community. These meetings will allow ICA to collect data on the target group and develop a suitable education plan.

IISEP is designed to be an ongoing program, but ICA is planning on meeting two milestones this year:

- Create contacts between international/minority and environmental organizations
- Host a city-wide event to promote sustainability. ●

Do You Have a Correct Connect?



Correct Connect is a DPW program designed to educate the public on how to identify and correct improper or illegal sewer connections.

Are the downspouts from your roof connected to the city sewer? What about the sump pump keeping water out of your basement? Some homes that are connected to the city sewer are contributing to raw sewage overflows into local streams and the White River each year.

Downspouts and sump pumps that are incorrectly connected to the city sewer send stormwater into the system, which takes up space needed to carry sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. During and after wet weather, excess stormwater entering the sewer can cause raw

sewage overflows and basement backups in homes and businesses.

The Department of Public Works is continuing its Correct Connect program to educate the public on how to identify and correct any incorrect or illegal sewer connections. Residents are encouraged to voluntarily disconnect downspouts and sump pumps from the city sewer. Most downspouts can be disconnected for 100 dollars or less.

The supplies needed to disconnect downspouts and sump pumps can be found at local home improvement stores. For an instructional video, how-to materials, and assistance from city staff

and partner organizations, visit:

www.indycleanstreams.org.

You may be incorrectly connected to the city sewer if...

Downspouts disappear into the ground. Instead, the water from downspouts should flow into the yard.

The sump pump is connected to another pipe in your home. Instead, water from a sump pump should flow into the yard, unless the washing machine is connected. ●



Mayor's Night Out Center Township • May 12



Citizens are proud of their city, but they live in their neighborhoods.

WHO: Mayor Greg Ballard and City Department Directors/Leaders

WHAT: Mayor's Night Out Question and Answer Session

WHERE: TBA

WHEN: May 12, 2009; 6–7 p.m.

For more information, please contact Charles Ingram at 327-4139 or c Ingram@indygov.org

IMPD Honors Data Transcription Employees For Exemplary Work



Pictured L-R: Victoria Hohlt, Kimberly Melton, Steve Wildman, Connie Berrueco, John Haussecker and Teresa Brown from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Data Transcription Section.

On April 16, six employees in the IMPD Data Transcription Section were presented performance awards for their exemplary work to transcribe police reports for the citizens of Indianapolis.

"These employees, through their dedication, hard work and excellent attendance, consistently perform at a level far above what is expected of them," said Patrick Pearsy, Data

Transcription Manager. "They are a credit to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department."

In order to qualify, an employee's production rate has to be an average of over 200 minutes of dictation transcribed per day.

The minimum quota of work the Data Transcription Section must complete is 150 minutes transcribed per day.

The 'Transcriber of the Year' for 2008 was Connie Berrueco, who had an average of over 240 minutes transcribed per day.

The other employees honored were: Steve Wildman, John Haussecker, Teresa Brown, Kimberly Melton and Victoria Holt. ●

The City of Indianapolis is offering a FREE Workshop for Minority and Women Business Owners

M/WBE Certification Workshop

Thursday May 28, 2009

9:30—11:30 a.m.

Holiday Park

6363 Spring Mill Rd.

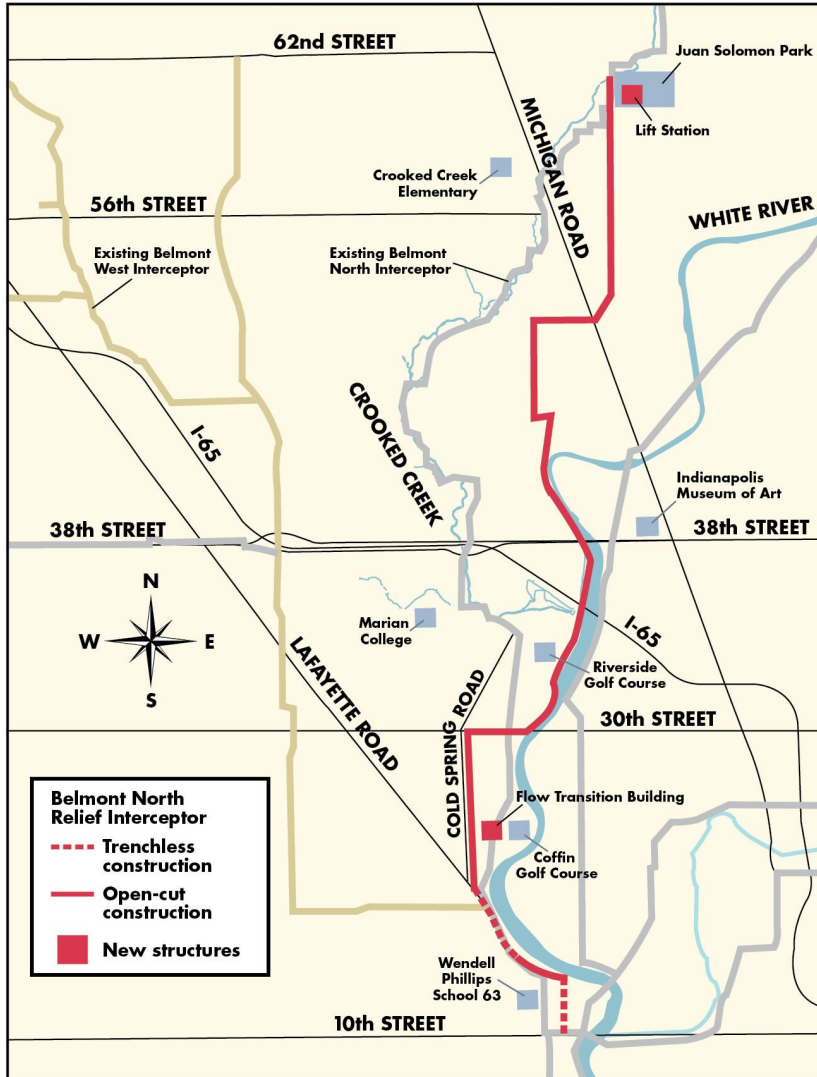
- Learn the application process
- Receive instructions on how to complete certification
 - Question and answer session
 - Individual counseling

Seating is limited.

Register now by contacting Regina Buckner at (317) 327-5262

For more information about Minority and Women Business Development, please visit: <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMBD/Pages/DMWBDHome.aspx>

Mayor Announces Crooked Creek Area Sewer Improvements



Septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail, leaching human waste into groundwater, backyards and neighborhood ditches and streams. From 2009 through 2013, the city plans to bring sewers to more than 7,000 homes currently on septic systems. Close to 2,000 of these homes are located in the Crooked Creek area. The new Belmont North Relief Interceptor, detailed below, must be completed before these homes can be connected to the sanitary sewer.

Mayor Greg Ballard recently announced the Crooked Creek Area Sewer Improvements project, which will create capacity needed for thousands of homes currently on septic systems to connect to the sanitary sewer system.

To resolve capacity problems in the existing Belmont North Interceptor, the Department of

Public Works will begin construction in mid-2009 on the new Belmont North Relief Interceptor. The seven-mile interceptor will extend from 10th Street to 62nd Street near Crooked Creek and the White River.

The project will accommodate community growth and future Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) projects on the

north, central and northwest sides of Indianapolis.

"This long-anticipated project marks a major investment in the public infrastructure of our city," Mayor Ballard said. "With this new sewer interceptor, we will improve water quality and quality of life, while reducing our environmental impact through the use of green and sustainable technologies."

From 2009 through 2013, the city plans to bring sewers to more than 7,000 homes currently on septic systems, and about 2,000 of these homes are located in the Crooked Creek area. The new Belmont North Relief Interceptor must be completed before these homes can connect to the sanitary sewer.

Septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail, leaching human waste into groundwater, backyards and neighborhood ditches and streams.

By adding capacity for homes to abandon failing septic systems, this project will improve the water quality of Crooked Creek and the White River, as well as neighborhood quality of life.

For more information about the Crooked Creek Area Sewer Improvements project, visit www.indycleanstreams.org.



IFD Does It's Part to Make Indy More Sustainable



IFD is making a concerted effort to be 'green' by cleaning up the area in and around its 34 stations and disposing of hazardous waste appropriately. While IFD's sustainability program is relatively new to the duties already performed by the firefighters, other programs are not. Every Spring, massive cleaning takes place inside each of the IFD stations.

Over the last eight months, spring cleaning has a whole new meaning at the Indianapolis Fire Department.

In September of '08, in cooperation with the City of Indianapolis and as part of Mayor Ballard's SustainIndy programs, firefighters in all 34 IFD stations are cleaning up the area in and around the station.

Through weekly spot checks, quarterly inspections and quarterly cleanings, loose debris, oil and grease are being diverted out of the sewer system and into a trash can.

With guidance from DPW and AMEC Earth and Environmental, the House Captain at each house was trained on appropriate clean up guidelines.

The House Captain took that information and trained firefighters at their station. Across the three shifts, fire-

fighters are utilizing haz mat guidelines (oil dry) to clean up grease and oil in the parking lots and on the approach. Once they dry it, they dispose of it properly.

Additionally, they are washing the apparatus inside the station as opposed to outside, so the soap and water runoff does not enter the street sewer system.

Loose debris from runs can be detrimental to the system. Every quarter, stations are required to file a log with AMEC and indicate what clean-up duties they performed.

While this sustainability program is relatively new to the duties already performed by firefighters, other programs are not.

Every Spring, massive cleaning takes place inside each of the IFD stations.

Similar to what you would

do in your own home, windows, baseboards, ceilings, painting, small repairs, appliance cleaning and carpet cleaning are all shared amongst the shifts.

Stations also have recycling programs in place. Chief Brian Sanford's Field Representative, Captain James T. Burris, instigated a recycling program in 2007 at IFD headquarters. He was then given the task of acting as recycling coordinator for IFD.

Firefighters take great pride in their firehouses.

While each of the 34 stations is different, they are treated as if they were firefighters' personal homes.

You can often drive by any firehouse and see firefighters cleaning up the trash along the street side of the property.

Planting flowers and maintaining the landscaping is often a weekend chore for those on duty.

IFD has participated in countless neighborhood clean up days and truly enjoy getting to meet the people they serve. ●

To Learn More about
The Office of Sustainability
and the City of
Indianapolis' Sustainability
efforts, visit:

www.sustainindy.org



City Gears Up for Indy 500 Race and Festivities

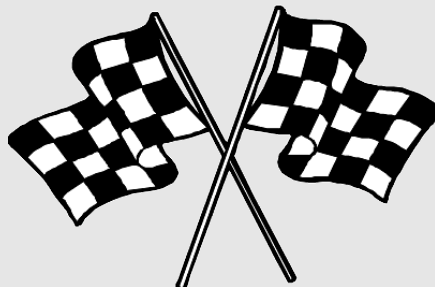


Mayor Ballard helps kick off the 2008 500 Festival on Monument Circle.

For more information about upcoming events, visit::

www.500festival.com

www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com



Upcoming Events:

May 1st, 2009

- 500 Festival Mini-Marinarathon: A Pasta Celebration, presented by Marsh
- 500 Festival Kick-Off to May

May 2nd, 2009

- OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon
- Finish Line 500 Festival 5K

May 16th, 2009

- 500 Festival Breakfast at the Brickyard, presented by ProLiance Energy

May 17th, 2009

- Chase 500 Festival Kids' Day
- Chase 500 Festival Rookie Run

May 20th, 2009

- American Family Insurance 500 Festival Community Day

May 22nd, 2009

- 500 Festival Memorial Service, presented by Rolls-Royce

May 23rd, 2009

- IPL 500 Festival Parade
- Regions 500 Festival Snakepit Ball, presented by Cindy & Paul Skjodt

May 24th, 2009

- 2009 Indianapolis 500

Charter Schools Hiring Fair

Hosted by the Indiana Public Charter School Association

Saturday May 2

9 a.m.—Noon

Challenge Foundation Academy
3980 Meadows Dr.

Candidates interested in working for a charter school should bring their resumés and credentials. Over 25 charter schools will be looking for teachers, instructional assistants, Title 1 coaches and administrative personnel. For more information, contact Alexis Crouch, with the Indiana Public Charter Schools Association at 317-972-5880 or alexis@incharters.org.

Behind the Scenes of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition



Thousands of volunteers participated in the Extreme Makeover : Home Edition build, which took place from March 28–April 4 in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. The two-hour season finale is tentatively set to air on ABC Sunday May 16.

The Story of the Extreme Makeover home built for the McFarland family would not be complete without mentioning the thousands of generous volunteers who donated hours of their time to make a positive impact in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood.

The story would also be incomplete without mentioning the coordinated efforts the City made to make sure the project adhered to zoning requirements, the public was safe and the construction deadline was met.

Once the decision was made to film the two hour season finale in Indianapolis, the City was approached by the show's production team to discuss details.

There was no question that meeting the show's one-week timeline would call for a collaboration among all City Departments.

The extreme build was handled by the City as a special event—like Black Expo and Indianapolis 500 activities including the Mini-Marathon.

However this project was definitely unique. For example, much of the pre-planning had to be done in secrecy to ensure the family would be surprised.

What was the City's Role?

- The Department of Metropolitan Development

Once the McFarland family was chosen, Department of Metropolitan Development planners stepped in to assist the show's producer in determining what

could be built on

the site to meet the current zoning requirements.

All required permits were issued and the developer, Paul Estridge, of Estridge Companies, paid for them up-front.

Estridge also made two provisions for the company to commit to the project: that the home not be overbuilt for the neighborhood and that the project involve the surrounding area as well.

- Health and Hospital Corporation

John Althardt, with Health and Hospital Corporation, says the Health Department's Environmental Control program had a crew devoted to the neighborhood for the two weeks of taping, cleaning up vacant homes and hauling away trash from the alleys.

- Department of Public Works

According to Jeff Roeder with the Department of Public Works, DPW provided lighting, barricades and worked with street sweepers for the project.

• **Office of Code Enforcement**

To ensure safety and that the home would be properly constructed, The Office of Code Enforcement had inspectors on the site 24/7 to answer questions and check the work.

- Public Safety

According to Public Safety Public Affairs Coordinator, Erin Pratt, IMPD used volunteer reserve officers to staff the build site.

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They also used on duty officers from the traffic branch, and IMPD worked to ensure that little overtime was incurred during the event.

Indianapolis firefighter Greg Robinson says the department provided on-site 24-hour medical coverage for Extreme Makeover: Home Edition with IFD paramedics.

There was also an IFD ambulance on site utilized as a first aid

station for the workers.

- *Indy Parks and Recreation*

Indy Parks was also involved in a support role for 1,200 tree plantings throughout the neighborhood.

Overall, the Extreme Makeover project helped transform not just one house, but a whole neighborhood, and it is hoped the momentum will spread throughout the City. ●



The two hour season finale is scheduled to air on ABC Sunday May 17.

Spring Brings Opportunities to “Green” Your Lawn and Garden, Protect Waterways



Springtime means warmer weather and blooming flowers. See below for ways to ‘green’ your lawn and garden while protecting Indianapolis’ waterways.

April showers bring May flowers and ways for homeowners to “green” their lawn and garden while protecting Indianapolis’ waterways.

During rainstorms, lawn and garden chemicals may run off into our waterways. Even small amounts of commonly used chemicals, such as insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers, can be harmful to human health and wildlife and degrade water quality.

To cultivate healthier lawns while reduc-

ing chemical use, residents can mow less frequently, leave grass clippings on the lawn, and/or water their lawn in the evenings.

If chemical insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers are used, consider the following:

- Read labels and use chemicals as directed
- Don’t assume your yard needs fertilizer; test your soil
- Don’t apply a chemical when rain is imminent
- Choose a chemical insecticide, herbi-

cide or fertilizer that is specific to the need

In vegetable or flower gardens, consider:

- Hand picking or washing pests off of plants
- Using row covers
- Trying more natural, less toxic chemicals on plants first, such as insecticidal soaps
- Introducing natural enemies of insect pests, such as ladybugs

Other tips:

- Never put chemicals down any drain
- If chemicals are spilled, clean up immediately and

dispose of properly

- Never hose down chemicals into storm drains
- Store chemicals in their original container, with labels, and out of the reach of children and pets
- Dispose of unwanted portions of chemicals through the Indianapolis ToxDrop program by calling 327-4TOX or visiting www.sustainindy.org/ToxDrop.cfm. ●



Public Town Hall Meeting

Indy Parks & Recreation will host a public informational meeting about the Ellenberger Park Ice Arena

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Ellenberger Park Ice Arena
5301 E. Saint Clair St.

Looking Forward to Summer at Indy Parks

It might only just have started to feel like spring here in Central Indiana, but summer is right around the corner, Indy Parks' outdoor pools open for the season on May 23, Visit www.indyparks.org for more information.

Ride IndyGo to Indy Parks pools this summer. Pools on bus lines are listed at the right. Visit www.indygo.net to purchase your summer youth pass. ●

Broad Ripple Park Pool – Route 17
Brookside Park Aquatic Center – Route 5
Eagle Creek Park Beach – Route 15
Ellenberger Park Pool – Route 10E
Garfield Park Aquatic Center – Routes 22 and 31
Gustafson Park Pool – Routes 15 and 25W
Krannert Park Indoor & Outdoor Pool – Route 8W
Rhodius Park Pool – Route 24
Sahm Park Aquatic Center – Route 19
Willard Park Aquatic Center – Route 8E

Broad Ripple Park Pool

1450 Broad Ripple Ave.
327-7333

Brookside Park Aquatic Center

3510 Brookside Parkway S. Drive
327-7331

Douglass Park Pool

2759 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave.
327-7325

Eagle Creek Park Beach

7602 Eagle Beach Drive
327-7132

Ellenberger Park Pool

5301 E. St. Clair St.
327-7176

Garfield Park Aquatic Center

2345 Pagoda Drive
327-7327

Gustafson Park Pool

3110 Moller Road
327-7334

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pool

1701 Broadway St.
327-7332

Krannert Park Indoor & Outdoor Pool

605 S. High School Road
327-7375

Northwestway Park Aquatic Center

5253 W. 62nd St.
327-7341

Perry Park Aquatic Center

451 E. Stop 11 Road
889-0825

Raymond Park/Indy Island Aquatic Center

8575 E. Raymond St.
862-6876

Closed summer 2009
for maintenance repairs:

Bethel Pool
LaShonna Bates Aquatic Center
Thatcher Pool
Wes Montgomery Pool

Rhodius Park Pool

1720 W. Wilkens St.
327-7328

Riverside Park Aquatic Center

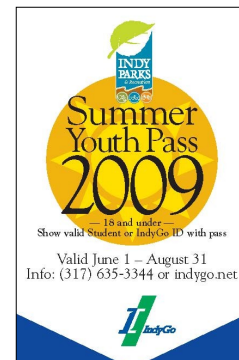
2420 N. Riverside E. Drive
327-7272

Sahm Park Aquatic Center

6801 E. 91st St.
849-2227

Willard Park Aquatic Center

1700 E. Washington St.
327-7330



City's Trash is Gold

Margin of error less than one percent for City of Indianapolis' solid waste removal



In 2008, the Solid Waste Division made about 15 million pickups; 265,000 per week plus scheduled leaf removals. While they received 10,200 complaints from residents, less than 2,000 of these proved valid upon inspection.

The Department of Public Works' (DPW) Solid Waste Division makes customer satisfaction their priority, and as the numbers show, it works. Last year's waste removal error rate fell below one percent.

In 2008 the Solid Waste Division made about 15 million pickups; 265,000 per week plus scheduled leaf removals. While they received 10,200 complaints from residents, less than 2,000 of these proved valid upon inspection.

"There are nearly 15 million opportunities for us to make a mistake when you consider we have 265,000 weekly pickups a year, yet we have an error rate of less than one

percent," said John Williams, administrator for DPW's Solid Waste Division. "The numbers speak for themselves."

Procedure requires that each complaint be physically inspected for validity. The average complaint response time was less than a day (.87) in 2008. After verifying legitimacy of complaints, crews work to address the reported issue. The complaint is not considered officially closed out until resolved. The time frame for close out averaged less than a day and a half (1.37) in 2008.

Complaints often stem from non-removed trash. In most cases trash was not removed due to im-

proper trash placement. Following trash placement rules will prevent many of these complaints. Proper protocol ensures the removal of waste and helps solid waste crews better serve the residents of Indianapolis. The most common

violations include:

- Excessive trash quantities: The maximum is ten items
- Improper containers: Trash must be in a trashcan ranging from five to 32 gallons with trash bags securely closed
- Unacceptable waste
- Pickup time: Trash must be placed at the curb or alley by 7:00 am on collection day

For additional information regarding Indianapolis residential trash collection, please contact the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4622, visit www.indy.gov or e-mail maccen-ter@indygov.org. •



Downtown Continues Success

Indianapolis Downtown Inc. takes a look at key indicators to measure Downtown's Success



Like the rest of the state, Downtown Indy is feeling the impact of the economy. Even so, IDI is excited about Downtown's future and its position as a viable place to live, visit and do business.

Each year, Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. (IDI) tracks key indicators to measure Downtown's success as a viable place to live, visit and do business. This information helps measure Downtown's well-being and strategically develop, manage and market Downtown.

Like the rest of the state and country, Downtown Indianapolis is feeling the impact of the economy. Even so, IDI is excited about Downtown's future. The continued focus is to maximize efforts to competitively position Downtown as a premier office center, neighborhood and destination. Here are a few observations based on 2008 results.

Office Market

Office occupancy and lease rates trended down compared to previous years, yet performed better than other Indianapolis submarkets.

Residential Market

Apartment inventory and rental rates increased. Home sales (both condominium and single family) slowed and average sales price dropped.

Attendance and Convention Activity

Total attendance at Downtown's largest attractions reached a 15-year high. Additionally, convention delegate attendance reached its highest level in 10 years. Hotel indicators reported through 2008 were stable.

Education/Talent Development

The number of students at Downtown campuses grew to a 15-year high of 48,331. The growing university student base needs to be maximized for Downtown residency, patronage and workforce.

All Markets

Affordability of Downtown housing, office space and hotels need to be monitored to ensure Downtown maintains competi-

tive price points for various market segments. It is important to continue to invest in and build Downtown's product and market aggressively.

Managing Downtown

IDI must continue to engage private and public sectors to leverage limited resources and collaboratively provide safe, clean and accessible Downtown.

The top priority is to continue to maintain a safe Downtown and address customers' perception of safety. Crime in Downtown decreased to its lowest level in last five years.

Both crimes against persons and crimes against property decreased in 2008. Partnership with the Mayor's Office, IMPD, service providers and private sector continues to be vital in minimizing panhandling and helping those in need of housing and services.

Cleanliness and beautification programs and partnerships continue to be instrumental in maintaining a clean, comfortable and beautiful Downtown. Balancing needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles and transit riders are essential to enhance Downtown's accessibility and smart growth. ●

For the complete
**Downtown Indianapolis
2008 Economic
Indicators report,**
click here:

[http://www.indydt.com/
IDI_Economic_Indicators08.
pdf?&lm=ai](http://www.indydt.com/IDI_Economic_Indicators08.pdf?&lm=ai).

Calendar of Events/Meetings • May 2009

This calendar represents a general compilation of community events/meetings. For a complete list of meetings in your neighborhood, please visit www.indy.gov/neighborhoods and click on your Neighborhood Liaison's home page.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please check with your Neighborhood Liaison to verify meeting details.

Friday May 1

Mid North Public Safety

42nd College Branch Library; 4180 N College Ave.; 10 a.m.

Saturday May 2

Charter School Hiring Fair

Challenge Foundation Academy
3980 Meadows Dr. ; 9 a.m.—Noon

Monday May 4

Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Assoc.

Immanuel Conf. C; 402 E Prospect; 6:30 p.m.

Irvington Terrace Crime Watch

6705 Julian; Irvington Community School; 7p.m.

Tuesday May 5

Far Eastside Weed & Seed-Weed Committee Mtg.

9120 Otis Ave.; 5:30 p.m.

Devington Community Assoc.

St. Albans Church; 4601 N. Emerson; 6:30 p.m.

Pogues Run Parks Master Plan Public Meeting

Brookside Park Community Center; 3500 Brookside Pkwy South; 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 6

IMPD NW Task Force Mtg.

IMPD NW District HQ; 3821 Industrial Blvd.; 6p.m.

Thursday May 7

City-County Council National Day of Prayer

City Market plaza (Inside if raining); Noon

Citizens Neighborhood Coalition

601 E. 17th St. Indy Parks; 6 p.m.

CNN Weed and Seed

38th Street Library; 6 p.m.

Riverside Civic League

Riverside Family Center; 6 p.m.

Gateway Neighborhood Assoc.

School 109 6150 Gateway Dr.; 6:30p.m.

Saturday May 9

Garden Work Day

Children's Garden at Garfield Park; 9-10:30 a.m.

2nd Annual Asian Festival

Garfield Park Arts Center; 2432 Conservatory Dr. 11 a.m.—5 p.m.

La Voz de Indiana 4th Annual Mother's Day Event

Golc Park; Washington and Warman; Noon

Guided Conservatory Tour (also on May 23)

Garfield Park; 2:30 p.m.; \$1.00

Monday May 11

Brightwood Concerned Citizens

Brightwood Library; 2435 N. Sherman Dr. 6:15 p.m.

Franklin Township Civic League Annual Meeting

8822 Southeastern Ave.; 6:30 p.m.

Woodruff Place Civic League

Woodruff Place Town Hall Woodruff Place East; 7 p.m.

Tuesday May 12

Wayne Township Leaders

Ben Davis H.S.; 1200 N. Girls School Rd.; 11 a.m.

Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce

LaQuinta Inn; 5201 Victory Dr.; 11:30 a.m.

Far Eastside Weed & Seed-Seed Committee Mtg.

Café, 8902 E. 38th St.; 6 p.m.

Mayor's Night Out—Center Township

Christ United Methodist Church; 8540 US 31 S 6—7 p.m.

Springdale Neighborhood Association

St. Peter Lutheran Church; 2525 E 11th St; 6:30 p.m.

Community Heights Neighborhood Assoc.

5630 E. 16th; 7 p.m.

Greater Allisonville Community Council

Erworth Church; 6450 Allisonville Rd.; 7 p.m.

FENA

975 E Post Rd MSD Warren Admin/Community Bldg; 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 13

Keystone Monon Neighborhood Partnership -

Annual Forum

IPS #391; 5111 Evanston; 6:30 p.m.

Washington Place

8400 E 10th St.; Moorhead Elementary; 6:30p.m.

Pike Twp Residents Association (PTRA) mtg

(zoning petitions); Pike Twp Govt. Center; 5665 Lafayette Rd.; 7 p.m.

Thursday May 14

IMPD SE District Community Day

Garfield Park; 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Southeast Community Organization (SECO)

IPS #39; 1733 Spann Ave.; 6 p.m.

Mapleton Fall Creek

Phillip's Temple; 210 E 34th St.; 6 p.m.

30th St. Corridor Redevelopment

Cardinal Ritter H.S.; 3630 W. 30th St.; 7 p.m.

FTCC Star Search fundraiser \$5

Franklin Central HS Auditorium; 6151 S. Arlington; 7 p.m.

30th St Corridor Plan Public Mtg

Cardinal Ritter High School Gym; 3360 W 30th St.; 7 p.m.

Saturday May 16

Mayor's Bike Ride (Free! - Helmet Required)

Veteran's Memorial Plaza; Michigan St. 1-3 p.m. (On-site registration starts at Noon)

Monday May 18

Children's Museum

Children's Museum; 3000 N. Meridian; 7:30 a.m.

Kennedy-King Neighborhood Assoc.

601 East 17th St. Indy Parks; 6 p.m.

Garfield Neighbors Assoc.

Shelby Street Library; 2502 S Shelby St.; 6:15 p.m.

Friends & FACT

(Fountain Area Community Team)

IMPD SE District; 1150 S. Shelby St. 7 p.m.

Decatur Civic Council

5108 S. High School Rd.; 7 p.m.

Tuesday May 19

Norwood Neighborhood Assoc.

Pride Center; 1129 S Vandeman; 6 p.m.

Little Flower Neighborhood Association

Little Flower School Cafeteria; 4720 E. 13th; 7 p.m.

Crown Hill Neighborhood Assoc.

Coppin Chapel AME Church; 3201 N. Capitol; 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 20

MIBOR Eastern Division

10501 E 21st Maple Creek Golf & Country Club 11:30—1 p.m. (speaker at Noon)

WeCare Recognition Dinner

218 S. Addison St.; 6:30 p.m.

Crooked Creek Community Council

Washington Park North - Family Center

2702 W Kessler Boulevard; 6:30 p.m.

Thursday May 21

Phoenix Group

First Baptist Church, 880 Udell; 11 a.m.

Cumberland Estates

Warren Library 21st St.; 6:30 p.m.

Devington CDC

Zion Hope Church; 5950 E. 46th St.; 7 p.m.

Saturday May 23

Indy Parks Pools Open!

Monday May 25 (Memorial Day -CCB Holiday)

RMS10 Neighborhood Assoc.

929 N Dearborn; 7 p.m.

Tuesday May 26

Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed

Oasis of Hope Baptist Church; 1:30 p.m.

Lafayette Square Area Coalition (LSAC) Monthly Mtg.

Westview Health Plex 3660 Guion Rd. 2nd floor 5:30 p.m.

Dawnbury-Keystone Preservation Assoc.

Glendale Library; 6101 N Keystone Ave.; 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 27

Christian Professional Chamber luncheon \$10

Pipers Café; 2130 W. Southport Rd.; Noon

ReadUp Celebration (volunteer tutoring)

Challenge Foundation Academy; 3960 Meadows Dr.; 4 p.m.

Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center's

Indianapolis Community Building Institute

graduation ceremony

Broadway UM Church; 609 E. 29th St.; 5:30 p.m.

Thursday May 28

MBE/WBE Certification Workshop

Holiday Park; 6363 Spring Mill Rd.

9:30—11:30 a.m.

Friday May 29

Nora Land Use/Code Compliance

Nora Commons Apartments-Community Room

8905 Evergreen Ave.; 8:30 a.m.

Saturday May 30

Master Gardener Plant Sale and Family Planting Day

Garfield Park; 9 a.m.—Noon

Peace Park Celebration

Dubarry Park ; 3698 Dubarry Road; Movie in the Park begins at dusk ; "The Secret Life of Bees"

[Click Here](#) to sign up and receive this newsletter every month.